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June 1965

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

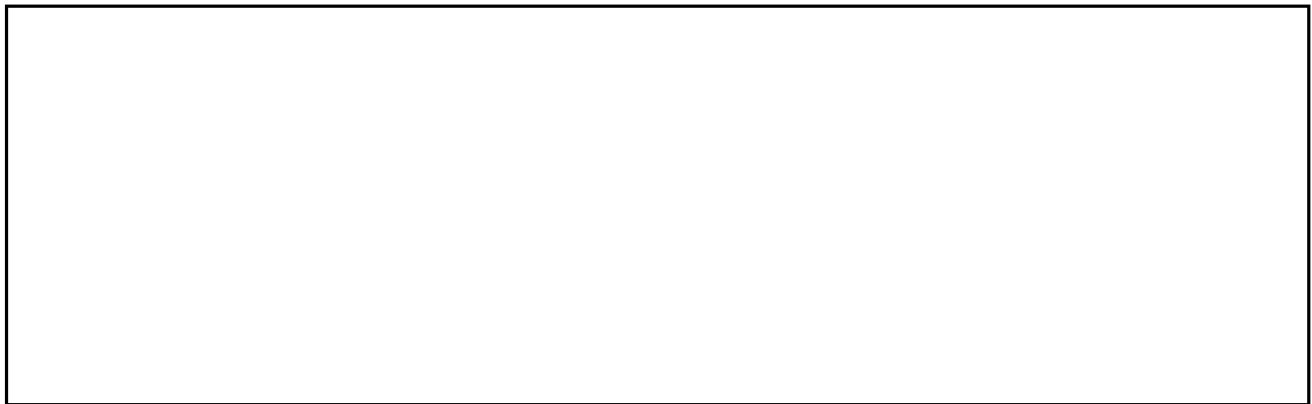
# MAKAT FIELD LAUNCH COMPLEX, USSR



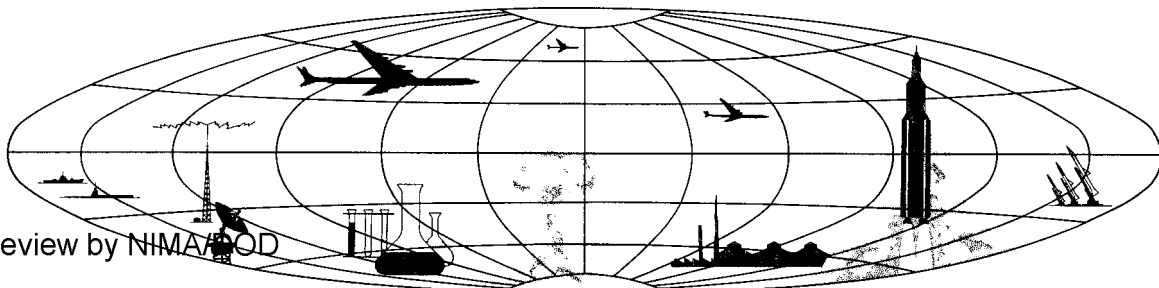
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## MAKAT FIELD LAUNCH COMPLEX, USSR

### INTRODUCTION

Makat Field Launch Complex (approximately 47-58N 53-47E) is situated just north of the Guryev to Aktyubinsk rail line, in a semi-desert and salt waste on the northeastern shores of the Caspian Sea (Figure 1). It consists of a launch area, a support base, an electronics area, 2 possible instrumentation areas, and airfield.

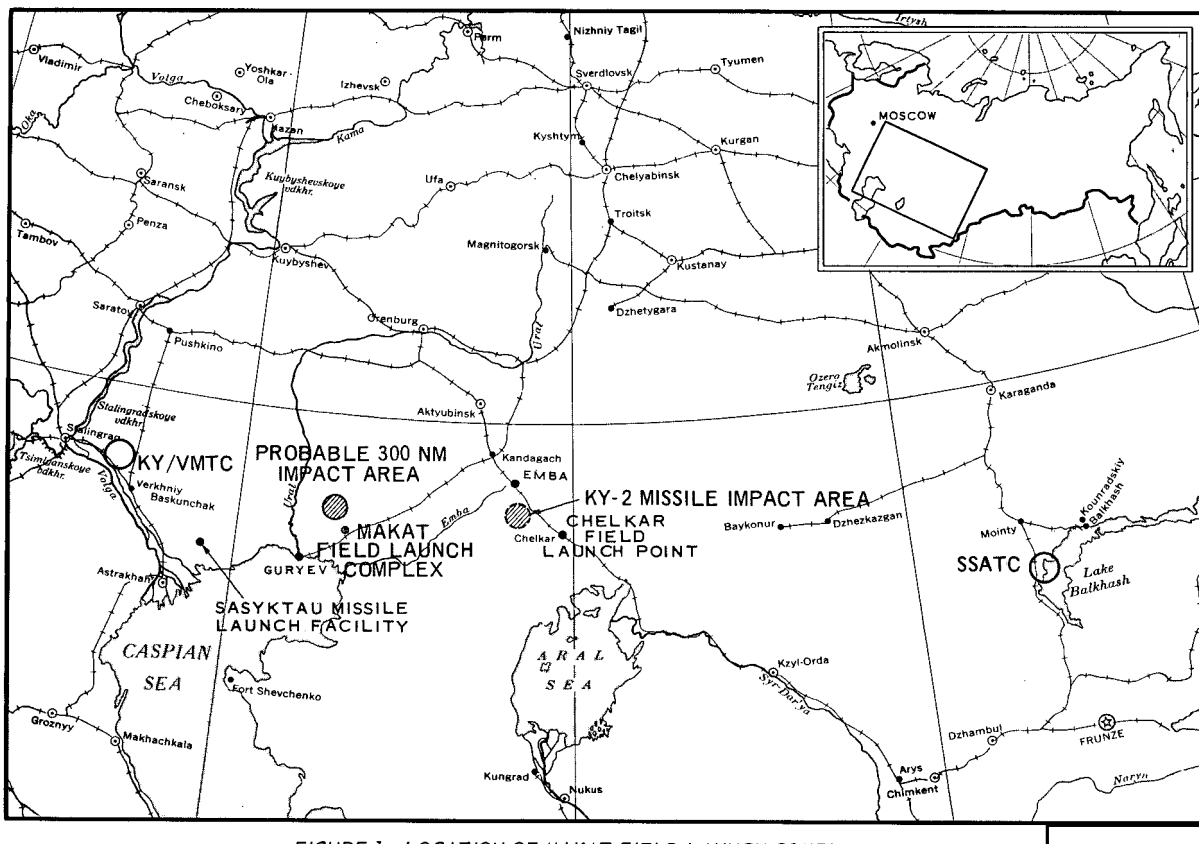


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF MAKAT FIELD LAUNCH COMPLEX, USSR.

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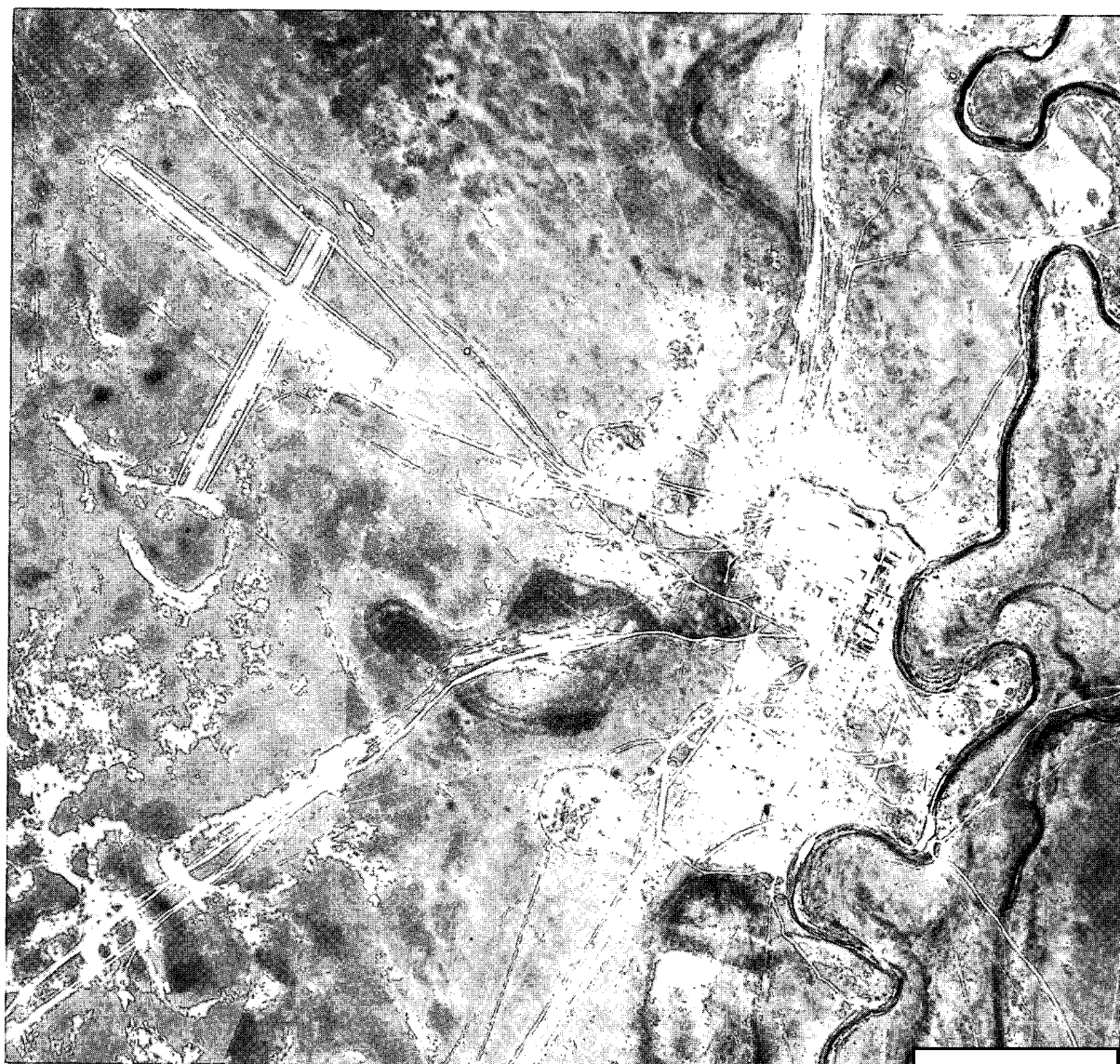
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COVERAGE

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Makat Field Launch Complex was first seen in [REDACTED] when the facilities were completely covered on cloud-free, snow-covered, poor-quality photography. At that time the Support Base, airfield, and electronics facilities between the Support Base and airfield, all appeared to be operational, as seen on Figure 2.

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FIGURE 2. MAKAT SUPPORT BASE AND AIRFIELD.

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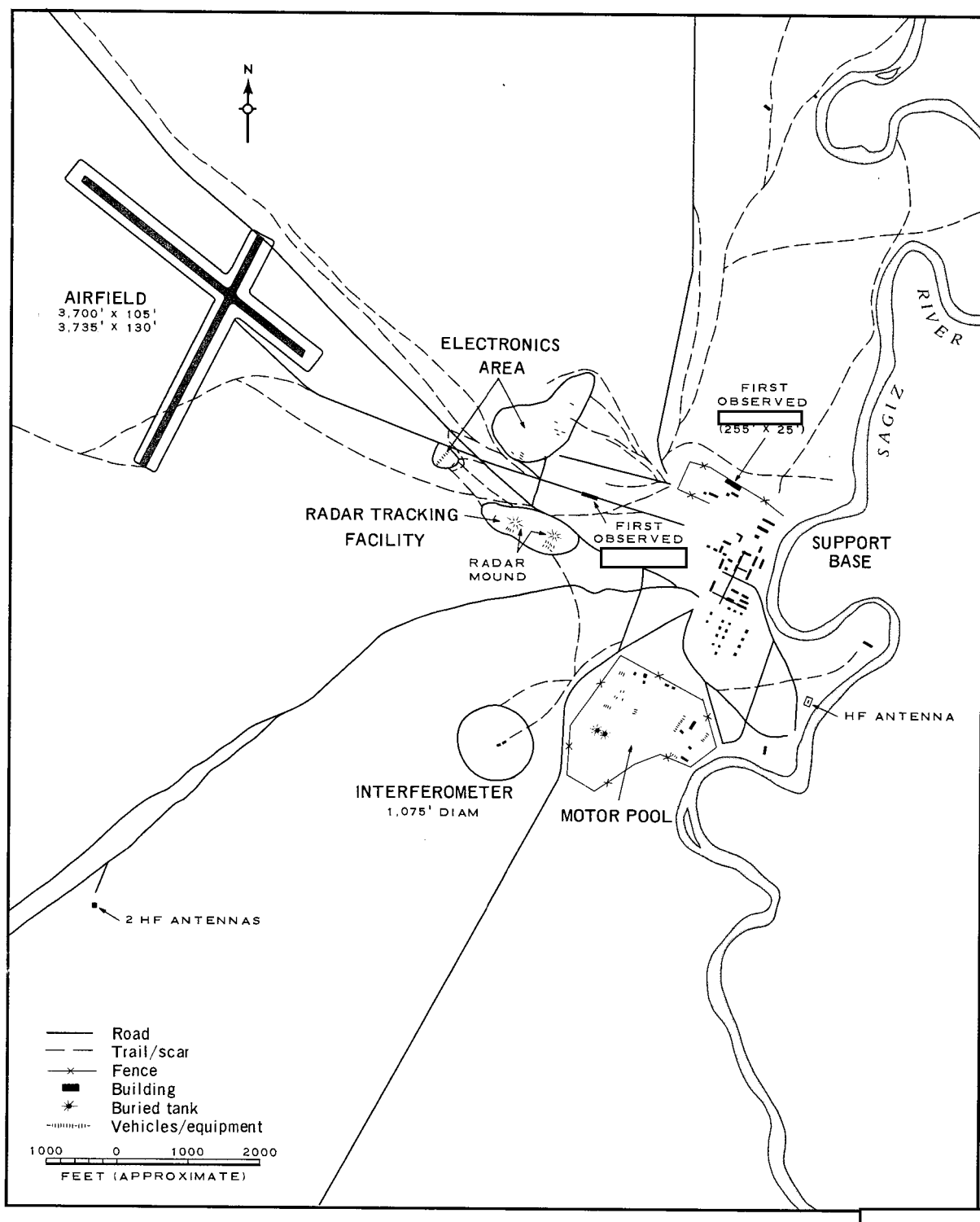


FIGURE 3. LAYOUT OF MAKAT SUPPORT BASE AND AIRFIELD.

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The launch facilities probably were in use at this time, although only the possible east instrumentation area, launch point, and missile-checkout area were cleared of snow and active.

Makat was seen again in [ ] when it was completely covered by fair-quality photography with a few scattered clouds. Little or no change was noted at the Support Base other than the addition of a probable building near the center of the interferometer. The only sign of activity that could be observed was the presence of 2 short rows of vehicles in the motor pool area. A new clearing could be seen immediately south of the possible east instrumentation area. This clearing was secured by a fire-break, as is the missile-checkout area. A long, unidentified scar could be seen just north of the launch point.

The next coverage of Makat was in late [ ] when there was no apparent change in the facilities. The Launch Area was completely covered and the Support Base and surrounding facilities were 50 percent covered on fair-quality photography.

The Makat Complex was seen [ ] times in [ ] when the complex was covered by extremely poor-quality photography of small scale and obliquity. There was no apparent change at the Support Base, with no activity observed. The clearing at the possible east instrumentation area probably was being relocated to a position immediately north of its present location, in a clearing adjacent to the main road from the Support Base. [ ] was the second coverage [ ] On this coverage the Support Base was cloud covered and the Launch Area covered with scattered clouds on fair-quality photography. No activity or changes in the facilities were observed.

Makat was next seen in [ ] [ ], when it was completely covered on

fair-quality photography. Within the Launch Area scarring could be seen leading north to the area of the possible north instrumentation area. Two unidentified objects were faintly visible on the launch point.

In the Support Base the only change of any significance is a new building (Figure 3), which is approximately 255 by 25 feet.

Several unidentified, possible vehicles were located in the motor pool area and in the electronics area. No other major changes were observed.

The next coverage of the Makat Complex was [ ] when the facilities were completely covered on good-quality photography. In the interferometer area 2 buildings, each approximately 55 by 20 feet, and oriented on an angle of [ ] were observed for the first time. In addition to these 2 buildings, there were 9 interferometer elements, each of which measures 10 feet square. Six of these elements are in a line radiating from the center of the interferometer and oriented on a clockwise angle of 140 degrees from the 2 buildings. The other 3 elements are in the same configuration as the first 6 elements and oriented 130 degrees counterclockwise from the 2 buildings. The interferometer is 1,075 feet in diameter.

When seen in [ ] the east-west runway of the Makat Airfield appeared to be the only active runway. The north-south runway had the appearance of being grown over with vegetation and was poorly defined at the southern end. No aircraft were observed in the vicinity of the airfield.

No significant activity or changes were visible at the housing and support area.

The Launch Area had no visible sign of activity. However, a possible tent was observed on the launch point.

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**COVERAGE**

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The first mission of [ ] was accomplished with [ ] missions to follow that year. The entire complex was covered on very good quality, clear photography. There was no significant change in the Support Base facilities. This mission did reveal the following details. The motor pool is probably fenced and is surrounded by a firebreak. Within the motor pool are 2 large, and possibly 2 or 3 smaller, buried storage tanks. There are 2 probable vehicle maintenance buildings, approximately 110 by 35 feet and [ ], an unidentified building approximately 45 feet square, and 4 smaller unidentified buildings. There were approximately 45 to 50 unidentified vehicles parked within the motor pool, which is an average vehicular count for the installation.

The housing and support area (Figures 2 and 3) is approximately 615 feet north of the motor pool and consists of 18 approximately 40- by 35-foot single-story, probable living quarters; 1 approximately 255 by 25 feet; 3 approximately 155 by 45 feet; 3 approximately 145 by 45 feet; 1 approximately 140 by 35 feet; 1 approximately [ ] 6 approximately 95 by 25 feet unidentified single-story buildings; 2 L-shaped buildings; 2 probable messhalls; and 14 additional buildings of varying sizes. Approximately 7 unidentified vehicles were parked in the northwestern portion of the housing and support area. This location appears to be an overflow parking area when a large number of vehicles/pieces of equipment are operating in the Makat area. A soccer/athletic field and probable rifle range are located immediately north of the housing and support area.

The electronics area is situated approximately 1,300 feet west of, and half way between, the housing and support area and the airfield (Figure 3). This facility consists of 2

general subareas, the first being a small radar tracking facility consisting of 2 radar mounds (1 occupied) and 11 unidentified related vehicles/pieces of equipment. The second subarea consists of 7 probable buildings and 35 to 40 unidentified vehicles/pieces of equipment. In addition to this facility there are 2 HF communications horizontal dipole antennas 1 nm southwest of the housing and support area and a similar one to the southeast. These 3 antennas are oriented on azimuths of approximately [ ]

When seen on [ ] there was a dark, possibly burned, area in the missile-checkout area. There also were 4 possible vehicles and a tent. The possible north instrumentation area and the unidentified area, southeast, are completely surrounded by firebreaks.

Makat was next seen in [ ] when it was completely covered by clear photography. A possible tent and 2 unidentified vehicles could be seen at the possible east instrumentation area. A rectangular, probable tent and 1 unidentified vehicle/piece of equipment were observed on the launch point. Two unidentified objects could be seen in the possible north instrumentation area. No activity or change could be observed in the unidentified area or the missile-hold area. The only noticeable change at the Support Base was a building under construction between the housing and support area and the electronics area. There appeared to be an average number of vehicles in the Support Base motor pool.

[ ] was the next photo coverage which partially covered Makat with extremely oblique, poor-quality photography, which devaluated this photo coverage.

[ ] was the next time the Makat Complex was covered; however, heavy clouds all but obliterated the complex, and no value was derived from this coverage.

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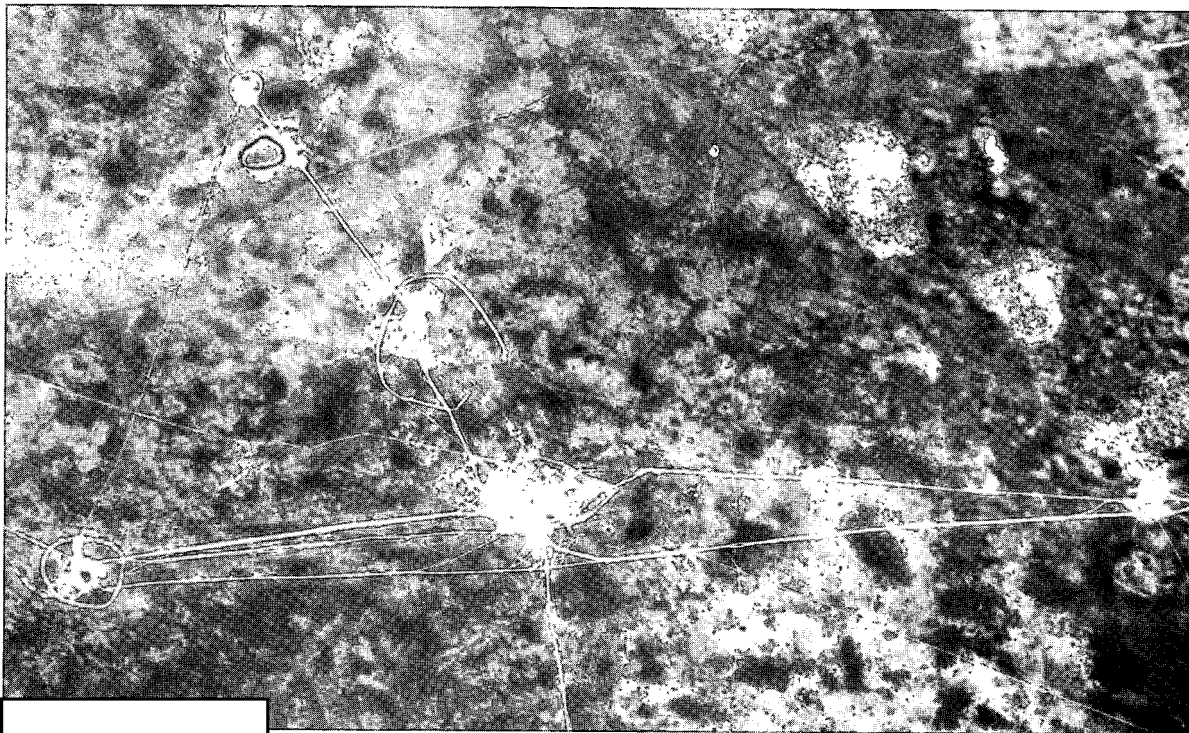
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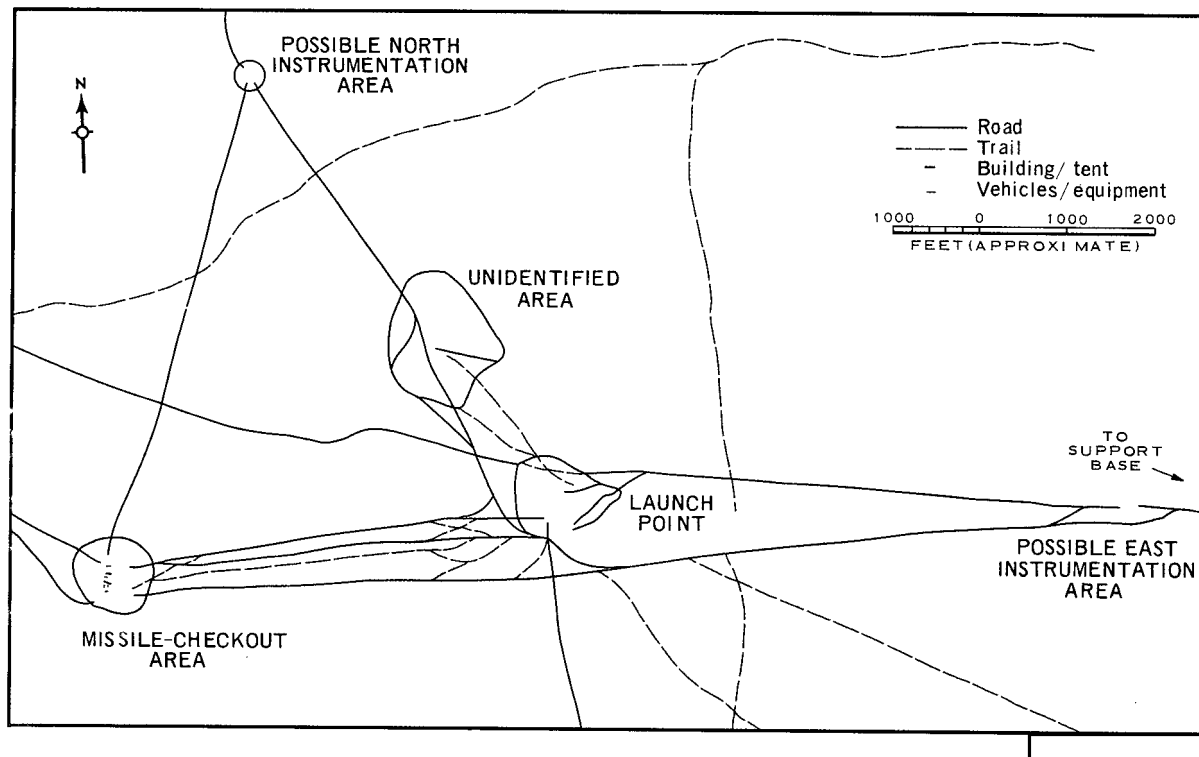


FIGURE 4. MAKAT FIELD LAUNCH POINT AND OTHER AREAS.

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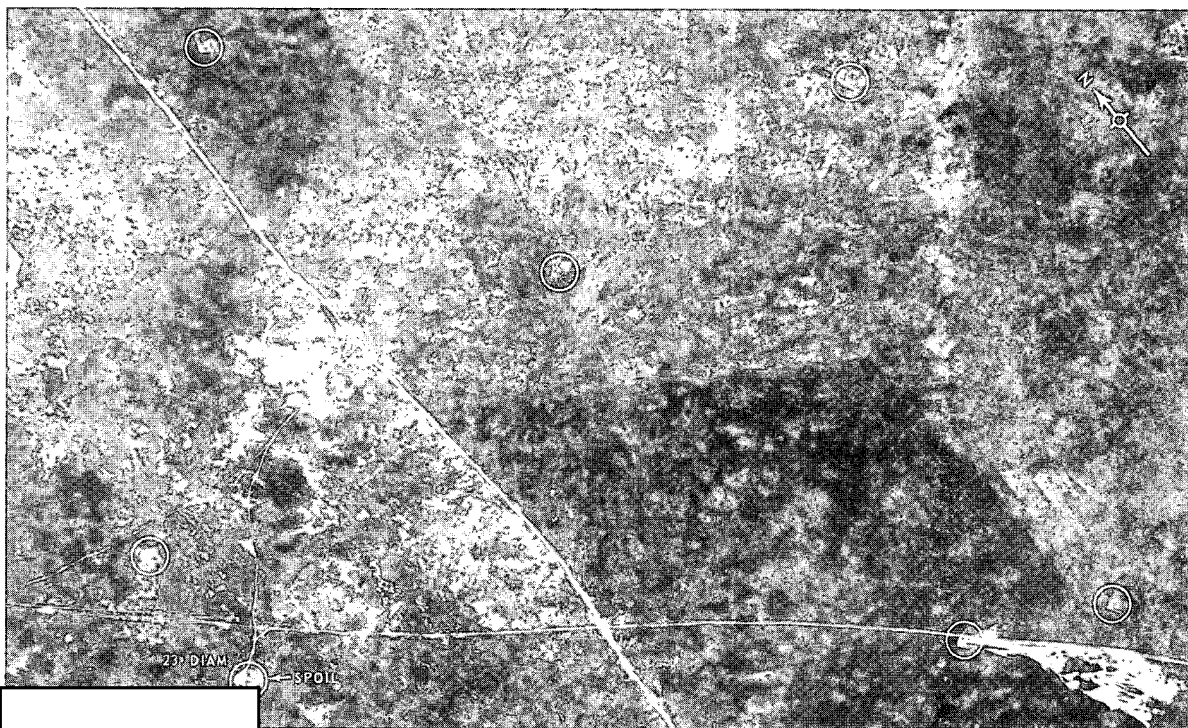


FIGURE 5. CRATERS OBSERVED AT MAKAT IMPACT AREA.

[redacted] was the next coverage of the complex, when it was observed on good-quality, clear photography with snow cover. There was no significant change in the Support Base; however, activity was evident from tracks and other marks in the snow. The launch point is the central feature and is situated approximately 7 nm northwest of the Support Base (Figure 4). It consists of a cleared area surrounded by a firebreak. Between the firebreak and the clearing are either 3 or 4 vehicle/personnel revetments. Approximately 8,100 feet east of the launch point is a clearing surrounded by a firebreak which has been identified as the possible east instrumentation area and which is approximately 510 feet in diameter. When seen on [redacted] a probable tent or building was observed in the center of the clearing. An area of unidentified

activity is located approximately 2,500 feet north-northwest of the launch point. This area consists of a clearing surrounded by a firebreak. Within this area were 4 unidentified, inline objects, possible tents, all oriented generally east to west, and 3 other unidentified objects.

An area 4,600 feet north-northwest of this unidentified area is a clearing surrounded by a firebreak, which has been identified as the possible north instrumentation area. When seen on [redacted] this area had only some unidentified scarring and track activity in the snow. This area is approximately 7,100 feet from the launch point and is an average of 400 feet in diameter. A missile-checkout area is located 6,400 feet west of the launch point. This area consists of the normal clearing, with a firebreak. Four unidentified objects can be seen

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in this area. Three unidentified vehicles were seen on the road between the launch point and the possible east instrumentation area.

seen were a probable ready tent, 2 missile transporters, and at least 4 other possible vehicles. Several vehicles/pieces of equipment were observed at the 2 possible instrumentation areas and the unidentified area.

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☐ COVERAGE

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The latest coverage of Makat included in this report was in ☐ when the complex was completely covered on good-quality, clear photography. When seen on this mission there was no significant change at the Support Base. Vehicular activity was discernible in the motor pool and on 2 of the roads entering the Support Base. No aircraft were observed at the airfield. Four vehicles/pieces of equipment were observed at the launch point and several others were parked nearby. Also

An area 10 nm north-northwest of Makat Field Launch Complex, at 48-09N 53-32E, has been identified as a KY/VMTC probable 300-nm impact area. This area contains 16 craters, which measure an average of ☐ The projectiles creating these craters probably were on a heading of 95 degrees at the time of impact. Four craters were first observed in

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#### REFERENCES



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MAPS OR CHARTS

- AMS. Series DESPA-1, Sheet NL 39-3, 1st ed, Jun 63, scale 1:250,000 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])
- SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0236-21AL, 1st ed, Mar 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)
- USAF. Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet F-5, 1st ed, May 61, scale 1:1,000,000 (CONFIDENTIAL)

DOCUMENTS

1. NSA. 3/0/RUGM/R67/65, *Soviet Missile Test Range Activity*, Mar 65 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])
2. CIA. PIC/JR-4/61, *Missile-Related Activity, Makat Area, USSR*, May 61 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- CIA. PIC/JB-128/60, *FLIM FLAM Station Near Makat, USSR*, Dec 60 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])
- NPIC. B-20/61, *Probable SSM Launch Area Near Makat, USSR*, Aug 61 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

- NSA. 3/0/RUGM/R514/64, *Probable Association Between Moscow-Emba Area Communications and KY 2 Missiles*, Nov 64 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-RR5-82,409

NPIC PROJECT

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